



Executive Officer's Statement

June 15, 2006

Victim Compensation Program Claims Management System Set to "Go Live"

On June 30, 2006, the Victim Compensation Program Compensation and Restitution System (CaRES) will go live. This new system moves the VCGCB to 21st century technology and is the VCGCB's foundation for the future. The project has been a tremendous team effort that has involved over 100 board staff representing all sectors of the Victim Compensation Program and divisions of the Board. Staff has worked side by side with the technical experts in ISS and consultants in the development of the new application.

The newly reengineered business process for the compensation program coupled with the CaRES application, will provide many new tools for processing claims. The document-imaging feature of the project will scan and archive applications. All work on claims will be accomplished electronically. The CaRES interface includes many other timesaving features. Employees will be able to validate addresses and zip codes automatically and send faxes at the click of a mouse. The CaRES letter generator will produce correspondence that looks professional and is easy for claimants and providers to understand.

CaRES will roll out in several phases. A special "go live unit" will begin by processing approximately 100 applications per week, with complete implementation no later than October 1st when all new applications coming to the VCGCB office in Sacramento will be entered in CaRES. This gradual rollout will ensure that the system is functioning smoothly.

We're Moving

After more than 15 years at 630 K Street, the VCGCB will relocate to new quarters at 400 R Street in Sacramento this November. The VCGCB will occupy the entire fifth floor and half of the fourth floor at its new location. The agency will also have use of the ground floor auditorium as a hearing room and a meeting room that can accommodate the entire staff. We anticipate that the November Board meeting will be held at our new location.

400 R Street is a newer building, compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), with plenty of windows and light. Formerly occupied by the Department of Consumer Affairs, the building is owned by the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) and sits across the street from the new CalPERS headquarters. R Street is undergoing redevelopment and a lively retail and residential area is included in the master plan for the growth in the area over the next few years.

Classification Study

Last year, I requested that a classification study be completed to review the Victim Compensation Specialist and Victim Compensation Specialist (VCS) supervisor classifications and make recommendations on how to improve employee opportunities and development of a career ladder.

The study was conducted by Cooperative Personnel Services and their recommendations were to move to service wide classifications, eliminating the department specific classifications. They recommended that the VCS classification be reclassified to Staff Services Analyst (SSA) and the VCS supervisor transition to Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA) positions.

We have worked with the Department of Personnel Administration on implementation of the recommendations and as of June 1st all eligible VCS staff have been reclassified to SSAs and the VCS supervisors will have the opportunity to transition to AGPA through the examination process. The exam will be administered beginning June 20.

Governor Schwarzenegger Acts to Preserve Federal Crime Victim Funds

Earlier this spring, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger sent a letter to the California congressional delegation urging them to oppose the Administration's proposed rescission of federal VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) funds and maintain the integrity of the Crime Victims' Fund. This year, the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) FY 2007 budget request proposed removing \$1.255 billion from the Crime Victims' Fund. If approved by Congress, the OMB proposal could result in zero funds available at the start of FY 2008 and put essential funding for victim compensation and assistance programs in jeopardy.

San Bernardino County District Attorney Michael Ramos, a member of the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board, has also taken action. He wrote to Congressman Jerry Lewis urging him to oppose this budget request; Congressman Lewis is chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

Government Claims Program Streamlines Surcharge Process

Working with the State Controller's Office, the Government Claims Program has developed a streamlined process for direct transfer of surcharges from state departments and agencies, eliminating the need for billing or other paperwork related to these payments. The Government Claims Program has been self-funded since 2004. Claimant fees and surcharges on allowed claims support the program.

VCGCB Updates

- The VCGCB participated in the first California Victim Assistance Academy (CVAA) in Fresno, June 4 – 9. Ted Boughton, Deputy Executive Officer for the Victim Compensation Program and Laura Hill, Deputy Executive Officer for the Revenue Recovery and Accounting Division (RRAD), assisted as faculty, team teaching the section on Compensation, Restitution and Civil Remedies with Julise Johanson, Director of the McGeorge Law School Victims of Crime Resource Center. Five employees from the VCGCB were students at CVAA. The CVAA is supported by a grant from the Office of Emergency Services Law Enforcement and Victim Assistance Division. California State University at Fresno is the academic partner for the CVAA. Tom O'Connor, Chief Deputy Executive Officer, and Christie Munson, Manager of Planning and Publications, served on the steering committee that developed the Academy over the last year and a half.
- The Victim Compensation Program Advisory Committee is set to meet at the VCGCB on Wednesday, June 21. Maria Mercado, with the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, will give a presentation on electronic stalking. The 12-member advisory committee is composed of representatives from state agencies and other entities serving victims, including the Office of Emergency Services; the Attorney General's Office; the Health and Human Services Agency; the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; the Judiciary; the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training; and victim advocacy organizations. The Committee works to identify crime victims' issues and needs with respect to compensation, as well as to provide feedback for Victim Compensation Program projects and initiatives. The Committee also provides an important avenue for coordination, networking, and new collaborative efforts among agencies, organizations and departments serving victims.

- Kathleen Andleman, VCGCB Chief Counsel, and Laura Hill, Deputy Executive Officer for RRAD, will attend the National Crime Victim Law and Litigation Conference on June 16 and 17 in Portland, Oregon. The conference, sponsored by National Crime Victim Law Institute of the Lewis and Clark College Law School, is the fifth conference exclusively for civil rights lawyers who defend the rights of crime victims in the criminal process. The conference, titled "The Power of One, the Strength of Many: Advancing Victims' Rights," is designed to show how just one case, just one law, or just one person can make a difference for crime victims and change the culture of the criminal justice system. Established in 2000, the National Crime Victim Law Institute is the only national organization in the country working to assert victims' rights in criminal trial and appellate courts.
- Laura Hill, Deputy Executive Officer for RRAD and I will attend the California District Attorneys Association Summer Conference June 26 – 30 in Newport Beach.
- On May 24 and 25, the Revenue Recovery and Accounting Division presented training to 30 adult and juvenile probation officers in Alameda County.